



Adapting to climate change to sustain health

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Abstract:

Adaptation is necessary because climate change has gained considerable momentum. Deep cuts in emissions must be made rapidly to avoid warming of 2 degrees above preindustrial levels but this is most unlikely, given present trends. It is possible that warming may in fact reach 4 degrees C or more by 2100. Risks to health result principally from the effects of climate change on local food production, severity and frequency of storms and floods, threats to water supplies, and the direct effects of heat. The health sector has an important role protecting health in times of climate change. However, other sectors must be involved as well-steps taken in agriculture, urban planning, water and civil defence, for instance, will have implications for prevention of illness and injury. We offer a framework for planning adaptation, taking into account present climate-sensitive health problems, control options, and constraints. (C) 2011 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. WIREs Clim Change 2011 2 271-282 DOI: 10.1002/wcc.103

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Resource Description

Early Warning System: ☒

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

A focus of content

Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Security, Food/Water Security, Temperature

Extreme Weather Event: Drought, Flooding

Food/Water Security: Agricultural Productivity

Temperature: Extreme Cold, Extreme Heat

Geographic Feature: ☒

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cardiovascular Effect, Infectious Disease, Injury, Malnutrition/Undernutrition

Infectious Disease: Vectorborne Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Other Diarrheal Disease

Vectorborne Disease: Mosquito-borne Disease

Mosquito-borne Disease: Malaria

Intervention:

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Low Socioeconomic Status

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Resilience:

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified